

Serial No.: 10/065,283
Attorney Docket No.: F-523

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Amendment To The Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying [[a]] an acceptable version of a form comprising:
 - initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database, wherein the form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier and a version number;
 - determining if the form version database must be updated;
 - providing an indication to a user if the form version database must be updated;
 - obtaining form version data from the form;
 - determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version database and the form version data by using the form type identifier; and
 - providing an indication to the user if the form is not an acceptable version;
 - processing pointing instrument input data obtained by using the pointing instrument with the form only if the form is an acceptable version.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the pointing instrument is a digital pen and the form is printed on paper.
3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by reading an RF-ID tag.
4. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by scanning a bar code.
5. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version data is obtained by obtaining user stroke data.

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6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the user stroke data is obtained when the user traces over a form indicator.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the form indicator is a serial number pre-printed on the form in a dashed font.

8. (currently amended) A digital pen comprising:
a processor;
a storage device connected to the processor; and
the storage device storing a form version database, wherein the form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier and a version number and wherein the processor is configured to obtain a form type number and to use the form version database to determine if the form type number is acceptable.

9. (previously presented) The digital pen of claim 8 wherein:
the processor is configured to update the form version database.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The digital pen of claim 10 wherein:
the processor is configured provide an indication to a user if the form version number is not acceptable;
the processor is configured to obtain user authentication data from a user to determine if the user is authorized to use the form, and
the processor is configured to disable the digital pen if the user is not authorized to use the form.

12. (previously presented) The digital pen of claim 11 further comprising:

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an LED for providing an indication to the user.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
updating the form version database periodically.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
disabling the digital pen if the form version database must be updated.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
signaling a source of forms to indicate the presence of outdated forms if the
form is not an acceptable version.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the form version
data is obtained by obtaining lookup pattern data.

17. (currently amended) A method for authorizing the use of a version of a
form comprising:
initializing a pointing instrument having a form version database, wherein the
form version database includes form identification data including a form type identifier
and a version number;
authenticating a user of the pointing instrument;
obtaining form version data from the form; and
determining whether the form is an acceptable version using the form version
database and the form version data by using the form type identifier;
providing an indication to a user if the form version database must be updated;
determining whether the user is an authorized user of the form version using
the form version database;
providing an indication to the user if the form is not an acceptable version;

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processing pointing instrument input data obtained using the form only if the form is an acceptable version and the user is authenticated.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein:
the pointing instrument is a digital pen.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:
disabling the digital pen if the user is not an authorized user of the form
version.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein initializing the
pointing instrument includes determining if the form version database must be
updated.

21. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the form version database includes a
range of acceptable form type identifiers and determining whether the form is an
acceptable version includes determining if the form version data indicates a form
type in the acceptable range.